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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,358	01/22/2002	Angela Marcela Wilkinson	WILK03-0004	9273

7590

01/22/2004

Docket Clerk
P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, TX 75380

EXAMINER

THOMAS, ALEXANDER S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

DATE MAILED: 01/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/055,358

Applicant(s)

WILKINSON, ANGELA MARCELA

Examiner

Alexander Thomas

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 9-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaye. Kaye discloses a placemat having a major portion (cat body) and an extension portion (cat head); see the Figure. Since “a place setting” and “beverage container” as instantly claimed may be any size, the reference to place setting and extension sizes in the instant claims does not distinguish over the placemat with extension shown in Kaye. Concerning claims 9, 12 and 13, the terms “right” and “left” are relative terms which depend on the angle and position from which the place mat is viewed. Therefore, the cat’s head in the article of Kaye may be considered on the upper right or left periphery of a major portion.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamel et al. Kamel et al disclose a placemat having a major portion and an extension portion; see the Figures. Since “a place setting” and “beverage container” as instantly claimed may be any size, the reference to place setting and extension sizes in the instant claims does not distinguish over the placemat with extension shown in Kamel et al. Concerning claims 9, 12 and 13, the terms “right” and “left” are relative terms which depend on the angle and position from which the place mat is viewed.

Therefore, the extensions in the article of Kamel et al may be considered on the upper right or left periphery of a major portion.

4. Claims 1-5, 10, 12, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Krass. Krass discloses a placemat having a major portion and an extension portion; see the Figure. Since "a place setting" and "beverage container" as instantly claimed may be any size, the reference to place setting and extension sizes in the instant claims does not distinguish over the placemat with extension shown in Krass. Concerning claims 9, 12 and 13, the terms "right" and "left" are relative terms which depend on the angle and position from which the place mat is viewed. Therefore, the coaster extension in the article of Krass may be considered on the upper right or left periphery of a major portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Kaye, Kamel et al or Krass. The primary references disclose the invention substantially as claimed; see the Figures. However they do not disclose the claimed size of the placemat. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

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vary the size of the mats in the references to provide the desired protection coverage for a particular end use.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-1502. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00 M-THUR.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



ALEXANDER S. THOMAS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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